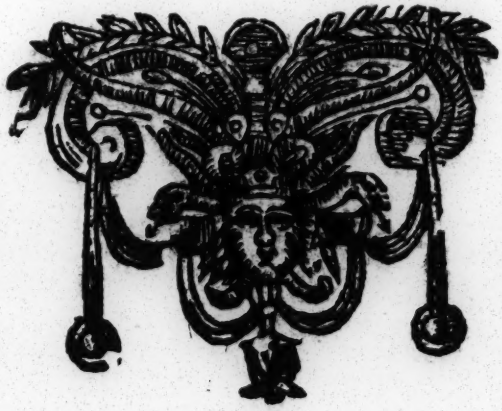
THE EARLE OF STRAFFORDS SPEECH ON THE SCAFFOLD, before he was beheaded on Tower-hill, the 12 of *May*, 1641.



LONDON,
Printed in the yeare, 1641.

EARLE

LONDON,

THE EARLE OF STRAFFORDS SPEECH

On the SCAFFOLD.

MY Lord Primate of *Ireland*, (and my Lords, and the reſt of theſe Gentlemen:) it is a very great comfort to mee, to have your Lordſhip by mee this day, in regard I have beene knowne to you a long time, I ſhould be very glad to obtaine ſo much ſilence, as to be heard a few words, but I doubt I ſhall not. My Lord, I come hither by the good will and pleaſure of Almighty God, to pay that laſt debt I owe to ſinne, which is death, and by the bleſſing of that GOD to riſe againe through the merits of Chriſt Jeſus to eternall glory; I wiſh, I had beene

private, that I might have beene heard, my Lord, if I might be so much beholding to you, that I might use a few words, I should take it for a very great curtesie, my Lord, I come hither to submit to that judgement which hath past against mee, I doe it with a very quiet and contented mind, I doe freely forgive all the world, a forgiveneſſe that is not ſpoken from the teeth outward (as they ſay) but from the heart; I ſpeake it in the preſence of Almighty God, before whom I ſtand, that there is not ſo much as a diſpleaſing thought in me arising to any creature, I thanke God, I may ſay truly, and my conſcience beares me witneſſe, that in all my ſervices, ſince I have had the honour to ſerve his Majeſty in any Employment, I never had any thing in my heart, but the joynt and individuall proſperity of King and people; if it have beene my hap to be miſconſter'd, it is the common portion of us all, while we are in this life, the righteous judgement is hereafter: here we are ſubject to errour, and apt to be miſjudged one of another; there is one thing I deſire to cleere my ſelfe off, and I am very confident, I ſpeake it with ſo much cleareneſſe, that I hope I ſhall have your Chriſtian charity in the beliefe of it, I did alwayes ever thinke the Parliaments of England, were the happieſt conſtitutions that any Kingdome, or any Nation lived under, and under God the meanes of making King and people happy, ſo farre have I beene from being againſt Parliaments; for my death I

here

here acquit all the world, and pray god heart
forgive them; and in particular, my Lord
I am very glad: that his Majeſtie is ple
ceive me, not meriting ſo ſevere,
niſhment as the utmoſt
tence; J am very glad and in
this mercy of his, and beſeech
him, that he may find mer
need of it; J wiſh this King
rity and happineſſe in the w
and now dying it is my wiſh,
from my heart, and doe moſt h
it unto every man here, and wi
his hands upon his heart, and
whether the beginning of the ha
ple ſhould be written in Letters
you are in a wrong way, and
God that no one drop of my bloud may rise up in judgement againſt you.

(My Lord,) I Profeſſe my ſelfe a true and obedient Sonne to the *Church* of *England*, to that *Church* wherein *I* was borne, and wher ein I was bred; *proſperity* and *happineſſe* be ever to it: and whereas it hath beene ſaid that J have enclin'd to Popery, if it be an Objection worth anſwering, let mee ſay truely, that from the time ſince *I* was one and twenty yeares of age, till this houre now going upon nine and forty,

private, that I might have beene heard, my Lord, if I might be ſo much beholding to you, that J might uſe a few words, I ſhould take it for a very great curteſie, my Lord, I come hither to ſubmit to that judgement which hath paſt againſt mee, J doe it with a very quiet and contented mind, J doe freely forgive all the world, a forgiveneſſe that is not ſpoken from the teeth outward (as they ſay) but from the heart; J ſpeake it in the preſence of Almighty God, before whom I ſtand, that there is not ſo much as a diſpleaſing thought in me ariſing to any creature, *I* thanke God, I may ſay truly, and my conſcience beares me witneſſe, that in all my ſervices, ſince I have had the honour to ſerve his Majeſty in any Employment, I never had any thing in my heart, but the joynt and individuall proſperity of King and people; if it have beene my hap to be miſconſter'd, it is the common portion of us all, while we are in this life, the righteous judgement is hereafter: here we are ſubject to errour, and apt to be miſjudged one of another; there is one thing *I* deſire to cleere my ſelfe off, and *I* am very confident, *I* ſpeake it with ſo much cleareneſſe, that *I* hope *I* ſhall have your Chriſtian charity in the beliefe of it, I did alwayes ever thinke the Parliaments of England, were the happieſt conſtitutions that any Kingdome, or any Nation lived under, and under God the meanes of making King and people happy, ſo farre have *I* beene from being againſt Parliaments; for my death *I*

here

here acquit all the world, and pray god heart
forgive them; and in particular, my Lord
I am very glad: that his Majeſtie is ple
ceive me, not meriting ſo ſevere,
niſhment as the utmoſt
tence; J am very glad and in
this mercy of his, and beſeech
him, that he may find mer
need of it; J wiſh this King
rity and happineſſe in the w
and now dying it is my wiſh,
from my heart; and doe moſt h
it unto every man here, and wi
his hands upon his heart, and
whether the beginning of the ha
ple ſhould be written in Letters
you are in a wrong way, and
God that no one drop of my bloud may riſe up in judgement againſt you.

(My Lord,) I Profeſſe my ſelfe a true and obedient Sonne to the *Church* of *England*, to that *Church* wherein *I* was borne, and wher ein I was bred; *proſperity* and *happineſſe* be ever to it: and whereas it hath beeee ſaid that J have enclin'd to Popery, if it be an Objection worth anſwering, let mee ſay truely, that from the time ſince *I* was one and twenty yeares of age, till this houre now going upon nine and forty,

R

[redacted] had thought in my heart to doubt of the
[redacted] my Religion in *England*: and never any
[redacted]oldneſſe to ſuggeſt to me the contrary, to
[redacted] remembrance: and ſo being recon-
[redacted]cies of *Chriſt Jeſus* my Saviour, in-
[redacted] I hope ſhortly to be gather'd, to
[redacted]all happineſſes that ſhall never
[redacted]truly the forgiveneſſe of every
[redacted] or unadviſed word, or deed,
[redacted]rs. And ſo my Lords fare-
[redacted] things of this world, LORD
[redacted], give me confidence and aſſu-
[redacted] of *Chriſt Jeſus*. I deſire you
[redacted]e ſilent and joyne in Prayers
[redacted]uſt in God that we ſhall all meet
[redacted] in Heaven, there to receive the
[redacted] of all happineſſe, where every
[redacted] be wiped from our eyes, and every
ſad thought from our hearts. And ſo
God bleſſe this Kingdome, and
Jeſus have mercy upon my
Soule.

FINIS.